

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4305

August 26, 2005

The Honorable Alberto R. Gonzales
Attorney General of the United States
Department of Justice
Room 5111
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear General Gonzales:

Thank you for your service to our country. Your leadership in these challenging times is greatly appreciated. I write to you regarding the increasing crime and violence surrounding the ongoing drug wars in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, which is a matter of great concern to me.

As you know, this violence has spilled over into Laredo, Texas, and according to reports by the Dallas Morning News, it has reached far into North Texas. By all accounts, the violence stems from a war over smuggling routes between rival drug cartels. This violence has become so severe that Ambassador Garza temporarily closed the U.S. Consulate in Nuevo Laredo and has reportedly offered Mexico assistance in reorganizing its state police.

While reports indicate that much of the violence is limited to targets within Nuevo Laredo, border area police officials report that trained paramilitary escorts accompany drug shipments into the United States, and high-powered ammunition and weapons have been smuggled into Mexico. Additionally, I have read reports of U.S. Border Patrol agents being fired upon in the course of carrying out their jobs.

I respectfully request that you review current Departmental resources dedicated to fighting violent crime, narcotics smuggling, and illegal firearms trafficking and reallocate law enforcement resources to the Laredo area until this untenable situation is resolved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator